



Real Connections

AUGUST 2026 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

Monday Night Prayer Time (6:00-7:00 p.m.) – August 3rd

UWIF (10:00 a.m., Library) – August 8th

Celebration Kick-Off Event (12:30 p.m. Asbury Park) - August 9th

Monday Night Prayer Time (6:00-7:00 p.m.) – August 10th

Monday Night Prayer Time (6:00-7:00 p.m.) – August 17th

Epilogue Group (11:30 a.m., Oakwood Cafe) – August 19th

Council (6:30 p.m.) – August 19th

SPRC (6:30 p.m.) – August 20th

Monday Night Prayer Time (6:00-7:00 p.m.) – August 24th

Worship Committee (11:00 a.m.) - August 30th

Monday Night Prayer Time (6:00-7:00 p.m.) – August 31st

No Trustees until September

No Youth Group until September

No Men's Group until October

MISSION STATEMENT

We will strengthen opportunities for spiritual growth that fosters genuine relationships by serving our church and community.



Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I found a short synopsis of the workings of the Local UM church at UMC.org:

Governing and Administrative Bodies

- **Charge Conference:** The fundamental policymaking and legislative body of the local church, comprising all designated church leaders; it meets annually to set leadership, property decisions, and pastoral compensation.
- **Pastor:** Appointed by the Annual Conference bishop to provide spiritual and executive leadership to the local congregation.
- **Church Council:** Acts as the executive agency of the Charge Conference between sessions, providing overall strategic leadership, vision, and coordination for the congregation's ministries.

Required Committees and Teams

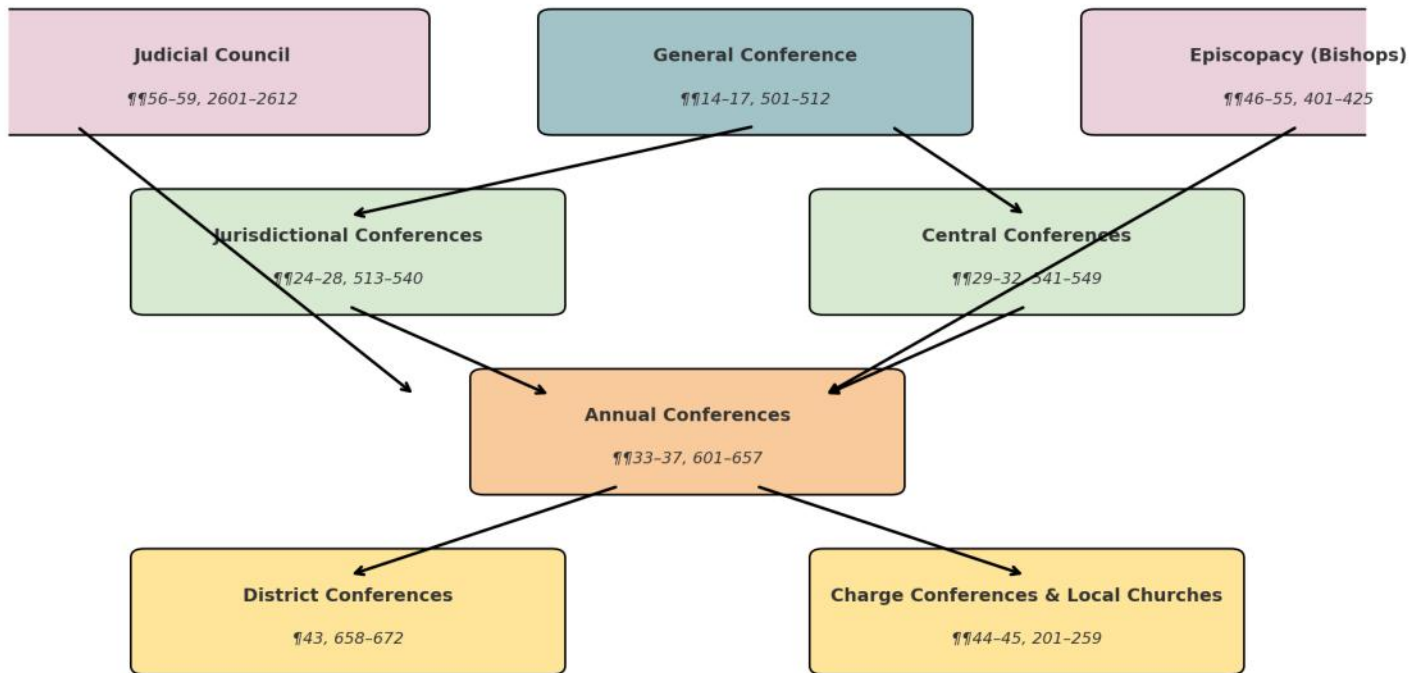
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):** Connects the congregation and staff, advising on personnel matters, pastoral relations, and staff evaluations.
- **Board of Trustees:** Manages, maintains, and supervises all local church buildings, grounds, and legal properties.
- **Committee on Finance:** Proposes the annual budget, oversees stewardship campaigns, and manages the receipt and disbursement of funds.
- **Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development:** Identifies, recruits, and cultivates lay members to serve in various leadership roles across the church.

Program Ministries

- **Ministry Teams/Committees:** Focus on specific areas of church life such as discipleship, worship, outreach (missions), education, and youth ministries, reporting back directly to the Church Council.

Please see organizational graphic on page 2...

Organizational Structure of The United Methodist Church



Council Update - August 2026

Ministry Kick-Off Celebration – August 9

Join us on **Sunday, August 9 at 12:30 p.m.** at **Asbury Woods** as we celebrate the launch of our ministry teams and look ahead to a new season of serving together.

Chicken will be provided — please bring a dish to share as we enjoy a time of food and fellowship.

During the celebration, you'll have the opportunity to visit our **Ministry Fair**, where you can meet ministry leaders, ask questions, and learn more about each ministry before deciding where you feel called to serve and support.

We'll conclude our time together with a **prayerful commissioning ceremony**, asking God to prepare our hearts, guide our ministries, and bless the work we will do together in His name.

Whether you've been serving for years or are looking for a place to get involved, we hope you'll join us for this special day of fellowship, discovery, and celebration as we continue to build **Real Connections. Growing Faith. Serving Others.**

Coming Soon . . . Lakewood Apparel

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, August 19.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Sanford	08/01
Phyllis Komora	08/03
John Litzel	08/03
Kyle Rea	08/05
Amanda Sissem	08/05
Rita Abramoski	08/07
Colin Ryan	08/10
Marty Reddinger	08/12
Eileen Ednie	08/13
Jeff Vogt	08/14
Madison Sissem	08/15
Daniel Thompson	08/16
Caelyn Frith	08/18
Roberta Paul	08/18
Darby Scalise	08/21
Margueritta Estes	08/22
David Fresch	08/23
Paula Wettekin	08/23
Richard Wettekin	08/23
Richard Smith	08/25
Fred Garnon	08/27
Liam Gerarde	08/28
Jimmy Xelo	08/29
Richard Lapadat	08/31

NATIONAL WELLNESS MONTH

Your Lakewood Health Ministry Team is focused on the spiritual, physical, and emotional health of all Lakewoodians. Research indicates that August is widely observed as **National Wellness Month** which promotes self care, healthy habits, and stress management.

For those of us with busy schedules, physical and/or financial limitations we can still take an active roll in improving our well being.



We can:

*****Prioritize Self Care** by dedicating 15-30 minutes each day to activities that bring us joy such as reading, hobbies, and relaxing.

*****Boost Physical Health** by focusing on hydration, nutritious eating, and consistent exercise.

*****Manage Stress** by practicing deep breathing, prayer, meditation, yoga if able, and spending time in nature.

*****Improve Sleep** by developing a consistent sleep schedule, and ensuring a dark and quiet bedroom.

*****Set Boundaries** by taking breaks from screens, work, and daily demands to allow time to recharge.

August serves as a reminder that taking care of oneself is essential for long term health and reduction of burnout. We cannot care for others if we don't take care of ourselves!

United Women in Faith

UWIF will be meeting Saturday, August 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. We will be discussing further donations, and plans for the fall activities. All ladies, young and older, are invited and we would love some new ideas or suggestions!



JULY 2026 ATTENDANCE:

Average attendance for weekly in-person worship: 68

Average views of weekly livestream (Youtube): 54

Average weekly combined "attendance" for July: 122

Average weekly combined "attendance" to-date: 122



It is almost time for the 51st annual Erie County CROP Hunger Walk. This event raises money for people who struggle with hunger and poverty here in Erie County and around the world. 25% of funds collected will be used to address hunger issues here in the Erie area. Last year, the Erie County Walk raised a record \$108,540!

The Walk is scheduled for the afternoon of **Sunday, September 27** and will begin at the **Beach 1 Runner's Pavilion on Presque Isle**. Our team will meet at 1:00 pm at the site.

Lakewood United Methodist Church has a team registered online, so please join our team or sponsor our team. You can register and/or donate by going to the following link: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/home>.

If the link does not work, do an online search for Erie County CROP Hunger Walk. Donation collection envelopes and other informational materials for interested walkers will be available in mid-August. Contact Chris Paul for additional details. If you are not walking, please consider sponsoring one of the Lakewood walkers or the Lakewood team.

A Segment from Finance

We'll enter August with expenses exceeding contributions by about \$3,500. Thank you for your continued giving and support of Lakewood. Your continued commitment to your church is a blessing. As summer winds down, please remember Lakewood if you happen to be out of town. Your church always needs your support.

Please follow the weekly giving numbers in the bulletin. Thank you for all that you give!

God loves a cheerful giver!

LAKEWOOD PRESCHOOL

Lakewood Preschool is growing! Our current classroom openings are as follows:

- 3 year old preschool (Tue/Thu) - two spots
- Weeklong preK - one spot
- Mon/Wed/Fri preK - waitlist

Our fall Toddler and Me signups are now open too! Different themed class each week! Toddler and Me is great for socialization and getting ready for preschool! Visit our [Sign Up Genius](#) link to sign up.

Here is a link to some items on our [Amazon Wish List](#) to help our school get bigger and better. Thank you for those who have already helped support us.

We are looking forward to the 2026/2027 school year.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you a recent graduate or know someone who is? If you are a member of Lakewood Church and plan to continue your education, academic or technical trades training, we encourage you to apply for a Lakewood UMC Scholarship. Applications are in the back of the Sanctuary. Return completed applications to the Church Office no later than September 30. Applications will be reviewed by the Trustees at the September meeting.